

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

WANDA I. VILLAFANE-TORRES,)

Plaintiff,)

vs.)

MEMBER OF MANAGER OF WALMART,)

Defendant.)

Case No.: 2:15-cv-1585-GMN-GWF

ORDER

Pending before the Court is the case of *Villafane-Torres v. Walmart*, (2:15-cv-1585-GMN-GWF). On April 4, 2016, the Court issued an Order dismissing Plaintiff Wanda I. Villafane-Torres' ("Plaintiff") Complaint. (ECF No. 3). In that Order, the Court granted leave for Plaintiff to file an amended complaint on or before May 5, 2016 to correct deficiencies in her Complaint. (*Id.*). However, Plaintiff has since failed to file an amended complaint or request an extension of time to do so. For the reasons set forth below, the Court will dismiss Plaintiff's claim with prejudice.

I. DISCUSSION

In its prior Order, the Court ruled, *inter alia*, that Plaintiff failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted as to her claim of discrimination and harassment on the basis of her national origin. (*Id.* at 3:16–19). Despite the Court's granting leave for Plaintiff to amend her Complaint in order to establish valid causes of action against proper parties, Plaintiff has failed to take any action whatsoever in this case.

The Court is at a loss in cases, such as this one, in which a plaintiff fails to participate in the judicial process and does not pursue its claims or even request an extension. However, the Court has an obligation to promote justice by allocating judicial resources to cases with

1 ongoing disputes and active parties.

2 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b) allows for the dismissal of an action based on a
3 party's failure to obey an order of the Court.¹ The Ninth Circuit has specifically held that this
4 rule may be applied when a plaintiff fails to file an amended complaint pursuant to a court-
5 ordered deadline. *See, e.g., Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260 (9th Cir. 1992). "In
6 determining whether to dismiss a case for failure to comply with a court order the district court
7 must weigh five factors including: (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of
8 litigation; (2) the court's need to manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants;
9 (4) the public policy favoring disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less
10 drastic alternatives." *Id.* at 1260–61; *see also Thompson v. Housing Auth. of City of Los*
11 *Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1423 (9th
12 Cir. 1986). The Court will consider each of these factors in turn.

13 **1. Public Interest**

14 The Ninth Circuit has consistently held that "the public's interest in expeditious
15 resolution of litigation always favors dismissal." *Pagtalunan v. Galaza*, 291 F.3d 639, 642 (9th
16 Cir. 2002) (quoting *Yourish v. Cal. Amplifier*, 191 F.3d 983, 990 (9th Cir. 1999)). In this case,
17 Plaintiff has not only failed to file an amended complaint pursuant to the Court's explicit
18 deadline, but has also failed to request an extension or explain its failure to the Court.
19 Therefore, this factor weighs in favor of dismissal.

20 **2. The Court's Need to Manage its Docket**

21 The delays caused by Plaintiff's failure to amend her claims have already consumed
22 time and resources that the Court could have devoted to other cases. The Court's resources are
23 best allocated to actions with active parties seeking to resolve their claims under the law. Thus,
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25 ¹ Though rule 41(b) refers to a defendant's motion for dismissal, the Supreme Court has long held that district courts have the power to dismiss actions *sua sponte* based on a plaintiff's failure to comply with a court order. *See, e.g., Link v. Wabash R. Co.*, 370 U.S. 626, 630–31 (1962).

1 this factor also weighs in favor of dismissal.

2 **3. Risk of Prejudice to Defendant**

3 The Ninth Circuit recognizes that the risk of prejudice must be considered with reference
4 to “the plaintiff’s reason for defaulting.” *Pagtalunan*, 291 F.3d at 642. However in this matter,
5 Plaintiff has not offered any explanation for her failure to comply with the Court’s order.

6 In its prior Order, the Court clearly identified numerous deficiencies in Plaintiff’s claims
7 that she could attempt to correct in an amended complaint. (Order 3:9–27, ECF No. 3). Rather
8 than simply revise its Complaint to correct these deficiencies, Plaintiff has taken no action in
9 this case whatsoever.

10 “Unnecessary delay inherently increases the risk that witnesses’ memories will fade and
11 evidence will become stale.” *Pagtalunan*, 291 F.3d at 643. Considering Plaintiff’s ongoing
12 failure to file an amended complaint without offering an explanation, the Court finds that the
13 delay in this matter is unreasonable, and therefore this factor weighs in favor of dismissal.

14 **4. Public Policy Favoring Disposition on the Merits**

15 Public policy and the preferences of this Court hold that legal claims should be resolved
16 on their merits whenever possible. This factor weighs against dismissal.

17 **5. Availability of Less Drastic Alternatives**

18 In an attempt to avoid dismissal with prejudice, the Court granted Plaintiff thirty-one
19 days in which to file an amended complaint, but warned that failure to file prior to this deadline
20 would result in dismissal of its claims with prejudice. (Order 4:8–12). Additionally, in the time
21 that elapsed since the Court issued its Dismissal Order, Plaintiff could have requested an
22 extension or otherwise clarified its position with the Court. Despite the Court’s admonishment,
23 Plaintiff has neither filed an amended complaint nor taken any other action in this matter.
24 Therefore, because the Court has exercised less drastic alternatives without success, this factor
25 weighs in favor of dismissal.

1 Accordingly, as four of the *Ferdik* factors weigh in favor of dismissal, the Court will
2 dismiss Plaintiff's claims with prejudice.

3 **II. CONCLUSION**

4 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Plaintiff's claim of discrimination and harassment on
5 the basis of her national origin is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**. The Clerk shall enter
6 judgment accordingly and close the case.

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8 **DATED** this 9 day of May, 2016.

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12 Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge
13 United States District Court
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